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running westward through the locality and a short chapter giving a few facts of economic interest, extracts from contemporary account-books and the like. As a collection of history material, this chapter is not extensive enough; and it is hardly sufficiently organized to call it more than history material. But it is in the right direction, as are the chapters on land-titles. It is to be hoped that we may some time have this later aspect of this later period fully told.

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CHARLES WORTHEN SPENCER.

*German and Swiss Settlements of Pennsylvania.* By OSCAR KUHN. New York, Henry Holt & Co., 1901. — 257 pp.

In nearly all that has been written heretofore about the Pennsylvania-German either he has been treated as a part, and almost invariably as a very unimportant part, of a larger field of inquiry or, as has been the case more frequently in recent years, particular phases of his history and character have been brought under the lens and subjected to a microscopic study. The first sort of treatment may be found in a large class of historical works, national, state and local; generally he is dismissed with scant consideration, often the pen is unsympathetic, while not infrequently the tone is one of ill-disguised contempt. The second mode of treatment is illustrated by the excellent monographs published by the Pennsylvania-German Society since its organization ten years ago, as well as by the writings of Seidensticker, Pennypacker and Sachse. *German and Swiss Settlements in Pennsylvania* stands midway between these two classes of writings; for, while it lacks the exhaustive treatment and fullness of detail of the one, it also avoids the superficial and inadequate treatment of the other. Its purpose is to give a complete yet concise view of the beginnings of the Pennsylvania-German race, to describe their manners and customs, and to gauge their influence on American life. Of its class it is probably the best that has yet appeared. The author traces his descent from pioneer German settlers in Lancaster County, that classic ground of the Pennsylvania-German, and writes, therefore, in full sympathy with the people whom he portrays. In his preface, true to his ancestry, he promises to eschew mere rhetoric and let the facts speak for themselves; and no one who reads the book will say that the promise has not been kept.

In his study of German and Swiss immigration the author confines himself to the period from 1683 to the beginning of the American Revolution, the generally accepted limits within which the

planting of the Pennsylvania-German race was accomplished, and during which period nearly 100,000 Germans and Swiss came to Pennsylvania. The chief causes of this extensive immigration the author finds in the long series of destructive wars which swept over Germany in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, beginning with the Thirty Years War and ending only with the Seven Years War a century and a half later; political oppression; religious persecution; the evils of the feudal system; the extravagance and heartlessness of the princes, who thought their rank and dignity as independent sovereigns could be maintained in no other way so well as by a servile imitation of Louis XIV; inducements to emigration held out by religious, philanthropic, political and commercial interests; and, finally, a certain *Wanderlust* which is declared to be "a distinguishing trait of German character from the dawn of their history down to the present," though ever in strange combination with love of home and country. All this is hurriedly sketched in a brief chapter of twenty-nine pages—all too brief, in view of its importance and the numerous excellent authorities at the writer's disposal. This is the least satisfactory part of the book and the reader might well wish that more had been made of it.

On the other hand, the character of the Pennsylvania-German, his manners, traits and customs, are portrayed with commendable fullness. His successful vindication at the hands of the author from the old and reiterated charge of ignorance is particularly satisfactory. This charge, as the author shows, rests exclusively upon the opinions entertained of the early German and Swiss settlers by their English neighbors, who did not understand them, whose fear of the French made them suspicious of everything that was foreign and who, in their insular narrowness, it may be added, failed to comprehend how any one ignorant of the English language could be educated or intelligent. While not highly educated as a rule and while such sects as the Dunkards and Mennonites were conscientiously opposed to all forms of higher education as harmful and unnecessary, they were neither ignorant nor illiterate. The large mass of books, pamphlets, almanacs and newspapers issued each year from the German presses at Ephrata, Germantown and Philadelphia show that they must at least have been able to read. Their opposition to the charity schools of the middle of the eighteenth century and, later, to the public-school system of Pennsylvania, which has usually been held up as convincing proof of ignorance and stupidity, was based on other grounds than opposition to education, as such.

The charity schools were inspired largely by political considerations, and were suspected of being aimed at the German language. Moreover, they were a charity and the Germans resented that. Their opposition to the common-school system was based on the ground that it tended to withdraw education from the control of the parent. They were not opposed to education, as such, for at the time they were maintaining schools everywhere in connection with their churches; but they were opposed to a system which ran counter to their notions that a child belongs to God, then to the parents, then to the state, and that the chief responsibility for education rests upon church and parents. An additional cause of opposition, as before, was their attachment to their own dialect.

The peculiarities of the Pennsylvania-German dialect are accounted for by the fact that the early settlers came chiefly from the Palatinate, Württemberg and Switzerland. Of these the last two were almost pure Alemannic, while the first was Frankish, with a strong infusion of Alemannic. Naturally the dialect would be a mixture of Alemannic and Frankish elements; and to the different proportions in which they have entered into the mixture in different districts are due certain variations which are still observable, although the author declares that the dialect has now become in general homogeneous. In this he is too sweeping. There is, for instance, a broad difference of dialect between the northeastern and southwestern portions of the Pennsylvania-German district; while differences of pronunciation and intonation, the use of the same word with different meanings or of different words with the same meaning, are often sufficient to identify a particular locality. A rich field lies open to the investigator along this line.

In their religious life the Pennsylvania-Germans present peculiarities to which no class of people that settled in the New World can offer any comparison. The movement of the Germans and Swiss to Pennsylvania was primarily and predominantly religious in character. The Pietistic movement that swept over Germany in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries gave rise to a large number of sects, nearly all of which were transplanted to Pennsylvania, so that Penn's colony speedily became a veritable Babel of religions. At that time the German mind was in a ferment and, as some one has said, threw off sects almost every day. If a complete list could be made of all the sects found among the Germans in Pennsylvania since their first arrival, it would hardly fall short of fifty or sixty. While the author briefly describes most of the religious bodies still

in existence and one or two that have become extinct, he misses the full significance of this religious heterogeneity. Its influence was felt in every sphere of activity. It accounts for certain peculiarities of Pennsylvania politics to-day. It largely explains why the Pennsylvania-Germans have produced comparatively few great statesmen and men of national reputation, and why they have not stamped themselves so strongly on the country as their numbers would warrant. It long retarded the educational development of southeastern Pennsylvania. It is responsible for the strong tinge of individualism by which the Pennsylvania-German character is marked, as well as for a certain narrowness of social interest and feeling.

This is a thoroughly readable book, rich in citations of authorities, with a splendid bibliography. No better book can be recommended for a general view of the subject, particularly to those who have yet to begin the study of this peculiar people. Its weaknesses and defects are summed up in the statement that it attempts too much for its limited pages.

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*Das französische Gewerberecht und die Schaffung staatlicher Gesetzgebung und Verwaltung in Frankreich vom dreizehnten Jahrhundert bis 1581.* Ein Beitrag zur Entstehungsgeschichte der vollkommenen Staatsgewalt. Von RUDOLPH EBERSTADT. (Staats- und socialwissenschaftliche Forschungen, herausgegeben von Gustav Schmoller, Band XVII, Heft 2.) Leipzig, Duncker & Humblot, 1899. — vii, 459 pp.

This is a work of first importance to the student of economic history. It represents, furthermore, the first attempt that has been made adequately to deal with French trade and industry before the days of Sully and Colbert. With the exception of a few monographs, the four volumes of Thierry's and the invaluable collections of Fagniez, no contribution has hitherto been made to the industrial and commercial history of France comparable with the work of Cunningham and Ashley for England, Pirenne for Belgium, and Inama-Sternegg and Lamprecht for Germany. Thierry's history of the Third Estate is to-day antiquated.

Dr. Eberstadt was five years in preparing this history, which he issued in 1899; and during those years he published in addition two important monographs, by-products of his investigations. In 1897 he opened anew the perennial problem of the origin of the mediæval